

APPROVED 01/21/2010

At 6:10 pm the Board's meeting was called to order in the basement meeting room at the Fremont Town Hall. Present were Selectmen Donald Gates Jr and Brett Hunter; and Town Administrator Heidi Carlson.

Keith Stanton came in to the meeting at this time. While the computer was rebooting, Carlson discussed with Stanton follow-up information to two email inquiries he had sent to the office this week. The first was one sent to Jeanne Nygren regarding a question about whether an elected School Board member could at the same time serve as School District Clerk. Carlson advised she had read some of the statutes that deal with incompatibility of offices and did not see those as conflicting in what she had reviewed, but was not sure that there could not be others specifically dealing with School Officials.

Carlson had then followed up with the Town Clerk to see if she knew, or could contact someone at the NH Secretary of State's Office to inquire. Stanton had also briefly spoken to Holmes about this and she indicated to Carlson that she would call the Secretary of State's Office for additional clarification.

The second email, received on Wednesday, Stanton asked a question about the Board of Selectmen's meeting minutes which encumbered \$4,500 for the demolition work on Sunny Lane and he questioned if the Town would get a rebate on that cost. Carlson explained that for about five years the Town had been working with the owner on this property to remedy unsafe conditions. The end result of that work, once the owner could no longer make progress in removal of all the debris, was that the Town had pursued a Court Order pursuant to health statutes. This Order had been issued in late November indicating the Town could make safe the property, and place a lien on it for all costs incurred.

The work had been put out to bid and an item on tonight's agenda was to review those proposals. Carlson indicated that the tally sheet showed proposals from \$1,700 to \$4,500, and the final cost would be less than the initial \$4,500 estimate so long as the low bid was a responsible one.

Carlson explained that the Town was entitled to a lien on the property for the costs, so that someday they would hopefully be repaid.

Stanton did not have further questions with regard to that information, and said he had come in to discuss with the Board the revaluation matter. Earlier in the day, he had dropped off at the office, a copy of today's Union Leader article regarding the Town of Epping's Selectmen (reprinted the first few lines of the article by Jason Schreiber) "demanding that the state change its rules for property revaluations, saying it's unfair towns are saddled with the high cost of revaluing all property every five years." The Epping Board is reported to have sent letters to the Governor and representatives "urging them to make a case to the Department of Revenue Administration that town-wide revaluations, which cost thousands of dollars, aren't needed so often."

He asked the Board to join in with the Town of Epping in proposing changed legislation to have revaluations done at a different interval as this is a big expense to come in every five years and spend \$75,000 as is proposed for Fremont in 2010.

There was general discussion about the process, and the Board's planned follow-up meeting with Senator Jack Barnes and the Commissioner at the NH Department of Revenue Administration.

Stanton left the meeting at approximately 6:30 pm.

Selectmen discussed the current Highway Department operations and conversations Carlson had during the past week with Guerwood Holmes and Leon Holmes Sr regarding workers compensation insurance.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Selectmen had reviewed the minutes for 05 January 2010 as well as amendments proposed by St Germain. The Board decided to table acceptance of the minutes until next week when the full Board is present to discuss them. The Board had also reviewed the minutes for 12 January 2010. These minutes were also tabled to next week, when two Selectmen who were at that meeting would be available to approve them.

At 7:00 pm there were no Department Heads present.

2. Selectmen reviewed an email request from Carolyn Carr of the Fremont Garden Club to make the plaque presentation (honoring Brande McLean as the Club Founder) at the Town Hall Garden on Saturday January 16th sometime between 10:00 am and 3:00 pm. Due to the funeral for Darrell Turner and other schedule conflicts, Hunter and Gates would not be available. The Board thought that waiting for spring when the gardens are growing and full of color would be a better time and asked if the Club would consider that.

3. Hunter had talked today with Senator Jack Barnes and they briefly discussed the proposal to meet with the Commissioner of the Department of Revenue Administration. Following the conversation with Hunter, Senator Barnes had called Carlson to say it had been set up for 2:00 pm on Friday January 22, 2010. Senator Barnes said the Board members could meet him in his office at 1:30 pm and travel to the DRA Offices. Hunter said he will see if they can clear his schedule for this meeting. Gates is unavailable, and Carlson will notify St Germain.

4. Carlson reported a conversation from last week (after the Board's 01/05/10 meeting) with Fred LeClair regarding the letter from Mary Pinkham-Langer, gravel tax appraiser, at the NH Department of Revenue Administration. The Board reviewed this letter again and discussed the circumstances surrounding the Town's one time purchase of some winter sand from LeClair. It was at that time the Selectmen reviewed the matter more closely because a complaint was received thereafter regarding purchase of material from an unpermitted operation.

Meredith Bolduc had advised Carlson today that the Planning Board was working on components of a letter, but thought that letter should come from the Board of Selectmen to Mr LeClair. Planning Board Chair Roger Barham is working on the information and the Board will wait for receipt of that prior to taking further action.

5. With regard to final encumbrance information, the Cemetery Trustees had voted to extend the contract with the tree company until the snow is melted so that access to the Cemetery can be done more safely and with less potential for damage. The contract amount is \$4,500 with Tip Top Tree in Hudson and will be encumbered as per the 12/30/09 discussion because the work could not get done as planned.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Selectmen reviewed the accounts payable manifest \$45,207.98 for the current week dated 01/15/2010; and the final 12/31/2009 manifest in the amount of \$30,369.60. Gates moved to approve the \$45,207.98 manifest. Hunter seconded and the vote was approved 2-0. Gates then moved to approve the \$30,369.60 manifest. Hunter seconded and the vote was approved 2-0.

2. Selectmen reviewed the folder of incoming correspondence.

3. There was no outgoing correspondence.

4. Selectmen discussed the request from Teamsters representative Jeff Padellaro to the Town's attorney to provide dates for Union negotiations. The Board discussed the Town's options for the negotiation sessions and whether the Town should have additional guidance for the sessions.

The Board asked Carlson to inquire at NHMA to see if they have any information available to Towns as they prepare for their first union negotiations. The Board also discussed contacting other towns, and perhaps former School Board members who may have served on negotiation teams.

Following this discussion and a plan to obtain more information, Selectmen decided that their posted meeting dates of Thursdays February 11, 18, and 25 would be left open for these sessions. Carlson will get those dates back to Mr Padellaro.

5. Carlson indicated that the Energy Committee and Thom Roy are working on Letters of Intent for various potential grant applications for stimulus money for energy projects. Roy submitted an Intent for the renovations to the Town Hall which includes a geothermal heating system. The Energy Committee is also looking at projects at the Safety Complex and Ellis School. The potential exists for up to \$400,000 being awarded, and the groups will work together on the applications for submission.

6. Selectmen discussed progress on the Town Report. This included the front "In Memoriam" section, and discussion about the front cover. The Board decided to see if one of the group photos of the Fire Rescue Department could be used for the cover. Board members also did a final review of the Warrant Article Narrative.

7. Funeral Services for Fremont Deputy Fire Chief Darrell Turner will be held at the People's United Methodist Church. The calling hours are from 1:00 to 4:00 pm with a funeral service to follow at 4:00 pm.

8. Selectmen reviewed the six bid proposals received for the posted RFP for demolition of the building residual and materials from 16 Sunny Lane. The bids were as follows:

Ty Bolduc Construction	\$1,700
Scott Blood Excavation	\$1,800
Pitkin Construction	\$2,500
JDL Construction & Aggregate	\$2,660
Dzioba Construction Co Inc	\$4,150
Lennon Co	\$4,450

There was one residual question outstanding from the low bidder. Thom Roy indicated that he would report back once that question had been answered.

Selectmen did not make a decision pending the final question, and asked to have the matter put back on the agenda for a final decision next week.

Board members signed the Lien for Recording as authorized in the Court Order.

9. The Deliberative Session informational Newsletter will be prepared in its final form with the Warrant Article Narrative included. The Newsletter was reviewed, and includes other information about important upcoming dates as well.

10. Selectmen signed the original 2010 Town Meeting Warrant for the Town Clerk; and several attested copies for posting. This will be held for St Germain to sign tomorrow if she is able to get in to the office. Brett Hunter also signed the Default Budget form (processed at the meeting of 01/12/2010).

11. Selectmen reviewed a Veteran Credit Application that Carlson had reviewed with applicant Joseph Goldstein when he came in last week to ask some questions. In that review, it was found to be in order and ready for approval as Mr Goldstein now meets all requirements. With all in order, motion was made by Gates to approve the credit on parcel 03-002.002.13B for Goldstein. Hunter seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 3-0.

12. Selectmen reviewed and signed one line item transfer for money to cover the Safety Complex insulation grant expense.

13. Selectmen signed a lien in accordance with RSA 165:28.

NEXT WEEK

The Budget Committee meets on Wednesday January 20, 2010. The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be held on Thursday January 21, 2010 at 6:00 pm.

With no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Hunter at 8:50 pm to adjourn the meeting. Gates seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 2-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Carlson
Town Administrator